

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Burn Building Subcommittee

Thursday, May 8, 2014

A meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board Burn Building Subcommittee was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Headquarters in Glen Allen, VA at 10:00 am. Mr. Robert Miner served as Chair.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Miner – Burn Building Subcommittee Chair - Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators

Richard E. Burch Jr. – Chair –Virginia Fire Services Council

James ‘Randy’ Wheeler – Vice-Chair – Virginia Municipal League

Edwin Smith – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Dawn Brown – Insurance Industry Representative

James “Robby” Dawson – Fire Prevention Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal (Alternate)

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Lopilato

Russ Chandler

Melvin Carter

Brook Pittinger

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael Matthews

Kenneth Sloneker

J.S. Southall

Cindy Morris

Dean Farmer

Scott Frankes

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Town of Farmville

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant
- B. Modification to VDFP’s Burn Building Grant Policy

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Robert Miner thanked everyone for their attendance and introduced the new Executive Director, Melvin D. Carter.

Mr. Carter indicated he looks forward to working with the Virginia Fire Services Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: Town of Farmville

Motion: N/A

Topic Discussion: Background: The Town of Farmville had requested to modify the scope of their future burn building back to Prototype II, Class A due to costs. During the July 2013 Burn Building Meeting, Town of Farmville had put in a grant application for Prototype II, Class A. The subcommittee members questioned the Farmville representatives why they required a Class A burn building when in fact it would be more cost efficient and more beneficial if they pursued a Class B. At the August 2013 VFSB meeting, Town of Farmville had submitted a revised application for a Prototype II Class B.

On March 11, 2014 – VDFP staff received a letter citing cost estimates that were higher than anticipated for the construction of Prototype II Class B facility. Based on estimates provided, the range was from \$650,000 to \$725,000. The letter cited that the Town of Farmville committed up to \$119,000 (20%) towards the project which also includes land site. However, due to these new estimates, the locality does not have the cash funds to make up over \$200,000 cost difference to construct Prototype II Class B fuel building. Therefore, the Town sought to go with their original request in July 2013 which intended on construction of Prototype II, Class A. VDFP staff advised that original request had been declined by the VFSB.

[Enclosure 1]

Update: At the Burn Building Subcommittee on Thursday, May 8, 2014, Chief Dean Farmer and Cindy Morris, the town planner from Town of Farmville provided the following update:

Town of Farmville has decided to continue building a Prototype II Class B fuel burn building. The subcommittee was advised that the Town Manager, Gerald J. Spates indicated the burn building project will still be pursued despite discrepancy in the amount of funding required. The Town has decided to come up with the difference in the cost of building the facility. Overall, the town will look into alternative funding methods and therefore does not need to make changes to its application.

Vote: N/A

Motion Action: N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant

Motion: N/A

Topic Discussion: Background: Christine Lopilato provided the following brief background on the Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant;

The Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant program provides defined grants to Virginia localities enabling them to afford regional fire services training facilities. The term Regional Fire Services Training Facilities refers to any jurisdiction within the Commonwealth of Virginia that provides multi-jurisdictional training within the Commonwealth per the NFPA 1001 and 1403 training standards.

The funding limitation is up to \$50,000 per year per locality.

Application submission is between January 1 – February 28. Following VDFP's staff evaluation, applications are sent to the Burn Building Subcommittee for approval then to the full board.

Funding is derived from the burn building grant funds. For this particular cycle, the funds are coming from the FY -14 dollars but will be disbursed within the FY-15 term (July 1 – June 30, 2015). This program is supplementary funding. The money becomes available following the balance remaining from the burn building grants after demand/use of the burn building construction/renovation have been met.

This application cycle which was from January 1, 2014 to February 28, 2014 produced two applications, one from Augusta County and one from City of Fairfax. Since this was the first year the program was implemented, the Agency anticipates getting more application during the next cycle. Christine Lopilato cited that the available funds are more than enough in meeting the grant requests from the aforementioned localities.

Vote: N/A

Motion Action: N/A

Topic: Augusta County Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant Application

Motion: To recommend the full board to approve Augusta County's Regional Grant request for \$49,349.

Discussion: Augusta County wants to get O-100 Kiddie Vehicle Fire Prop which costs \$45,080 and Trailer for Vehicle Fire Prop to ensure it is mobile and can be moved to other locations throughout the locality. The Vehicle Fire Prop costs \$4,269.02. The total requested is \$49,349.02.

[Enclosure 2]

Vote: Unanimous

Action: To present to the full board at the June 6, 2014 meeting.

Topic: City of Fairfax Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant

Motion: To recommend the full board to approve City of Fairfax's Regional Grant request for \$9,500.

Discussion: City of Fairfax requested \$9, 500 for material and labor to build a rapid intervention training props (RIT). Plans include an SCBA maze, Denver Drill Prop, Floor Collapse Simulator, and a Columbus Drill Prop.

[Enclosure 3]

Vote: Unanimous

Action: To present to the full board at the June 6, 2014 meeting.

Topic: Modification to VDFP's Burn Building Grant Policy

Motion: To remove Burn Building Prototype II – Class A from the VDFP Burn Building Grant Program and request that staff initiate all necessary changes to the policy, website and all other materials associated with this change.

Discussion: Mike Mathews from the Structure Group spoke about the problems with Prototype II for Class A fuels. He indicated that there is currently no solution to restrict heat. He discovered that localities request to fund the Prototype II Class A fuel - metal building. During the next grant application localities request to modify the structure/facility so it can be transformed to a Prototype II Class B fuel. Mr. Mathews advised to amend VDFP's Burn Building Grant Policy. See below for the current Burn Building Construction requirements:

Full Construction Requirements: To be eligible for any grant award to construct a new or replacement permanent burn building the recipient shall agree to expend such funds to construct one of the Agency's prototypes from the specifications provided by the Agency for either:

- Prototype I: Permanent concrete structure.
 - Prototype I for Class A / Class B fuels
- Prototype II for Class A / Class B fuels
 - Permanent pre-manufactured steel structure
- Prototype III for Class B fuels
 - Mobile Burn Building Props

Vote: Unanimous

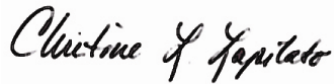
Action: To present to the full board at the June 6, 2014 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The subcommittee adjourned at 11:30am.

Clerk of the Committee

REVIEWED BY:



Christine Lopilato
Director of Finance

May 8, 2014
Date

Enclosures:

1. Town of Farmville Letter - **Enclosure 1**
2. Augusta County Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant - **Enclosure 2**
3. City of Fairfax Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant - **Enclosure 3**